GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3206
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
UN INITIATIVE TO PUT AND END TO CHILD LABOUR
RANEE NARAH

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNICEF has taken initiative to combat child labour with pilot programme aimed at providing schooling tomillions of children presently forced to work full time;

(b) whether in developing countries there are 250 million children aged 5 to 14 years who are working and have no facilities for schooling;

(c) if so, the total number of such children in India;

(d) the initiative taken by the Government to implement these schemes in India; and

(e) the help being extended by UNICEF in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a): As per the information received from UNICEF, within its commitment made in the Master Plan of Operation(MPO1999-2000), UNICEF will focus its activities in support of prevention of elimination of child labour in 25 districts where the major thrust of UNICEF supported interventions will be social mobilization for hundred per cent enrolment in elementary schools.

(b): As per the information received form UNICEF, most recent ILO estimates indicate thatan estimated 120 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 years work full time in developing countries. The number rises to 250 million if secondary activities are also included.

(c): As per 1991 Census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million.

(d): Government is implementing two schemes, namely, National Child Labour Projects and Grants-in-Aid for withdrawal of children from work and their rehabilitation.

(e): As given at (a) above.